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NOTES

USSR-BERLIN: The four-power ambassadorial meeting on Tuesday produced no substantive progress. Moscow indicated, as it had in an advisers' meeting six days earlier, that it was not yet prepared to negotiate any significant improvement in existing access procedures. Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov further warned that "illegal" West German activities in West Berlin--where an FDP party conclave is scheduled for 29-30 January--would bring retaliation, presumably a resumption of East German harassment of autobahn traffic. Moscow's rigidity in these talks in all likelihood is directly related to its expectation that Bonn and Pankow will soon begin direct talks on Berlin problems, a procedure the Soviets have long advocated. The Kremlin apparently wishes to deflect as many substantive issues as possible to the bilateral forum.

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